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Q2 includes a CPU 601, a memory 602, a magnetic disk device 603, a keyboard 604, a display 605, a communication adapter 606, and a data input device 607. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q3 -- In step 704, digitization section 210 of digitizing device 100 examines the contents of a response message from the publisher. If replacement is required for the electronic book generated in step 702, digitizing section 210 conducts processing of replacement in step 705 and then control returns to step 702 to again execute processing beginning at the digitization. If the contents of the electronic book generated in step 702 is recognized, digitizing section 210 sends the electronic book to content database section 410 of content database device 120 in step 706.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please add new claims 22-32 as follows:

Q4 22. A digital contents distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:
selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents, and generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing distribution of digital contents according to said distribution schedule to each of said stores; and

selling a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

23. A digital contents distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:

when digital contents selected by a customer is not saved in a vending device, transmitting a distribution request for said selected digital contents from said pending device to a distribution management device;

upon transmitting said distribution request of said selected digital contents from said distribution management device to a content database device, distributing to said distribution management device digital contents transmitted from said content database device based on said distribution request;

transmitting to said vending device digital contents corresponding to said distribution request by receiving said distribution request transmitted from said distribution management device; and

selling the digital contents distributed from said distribution management device.

24. A digital contents distribution method in accordance with claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

generating a digital contents by digitizing an original contents and transmitting to a recognition device a confirmation of contents of said digital contents;

executing confirmation of contents for said digital contents by receiving a request of said confirmation of contents and transmitting to a digitizing device a message to indicate whether or not the contents thereof are to be recognized; and receiving said message from said recognition device, and indicating to accumulate the digital contents recognized by said recognition device.

25. A digital contents distribution method to distribute digital contents via a network, comprising the steps of:

collecting sales information of digital contents sold to a customer;

calculating numbers of each of digital contents sold among a predetermined period based on said collected sales information of said predetermined period;

calculating total number of sold digital contents for each digitized contents holder having a license for said digital contents; and

sending for said digital contents holder a fee corresponding to the total number of said digital contents for each of the digital contents holder.

26. A digital contents distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a distribution control section for selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of store selling said digital contents, generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding said stores, and instructing distribution of digital contents according to said distribution schedule to each of said stores; and

a sales section for selling a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

27. A digital contents distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a processing section for collecting sales information of digital contents sold to a customer; and

a license fee section for calculating numbers of each of digital contents sold among a predetermined period based on said collected sales information of said predetermined period, and calculating a total number of sold digital contents for each contents holder having license for said digital contents, and sending for said contents holder a fee corresponding to the total number of sold digital contents calculated for each of contents holder.

28. A digital contents distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a distribution requesting section for when digital contents selected by a customer is not saved in a vending device, transmitting a distribution request for said

selected digital contents from said vending device to a distribution management device;

a distribution request relay section for upon transmitting said distribution request for said selected digital contents from said distribution management device to a content database device, distributing to said distribution management device digital contents transmitted from said content database device based on said distribution request;

a requested content distribution section for transmitting to said vending device digital contents corresponding to said distribution request by receiving said distribution request transmitted from said distribution management device; and

a sales section for selling the digital contents distributed from said distribution management device.

29. A computer readable medium storing a program for executing a digital contents distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents, and generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing distribution of digital contents according to said distribution schedule to each of said stores; and

selling a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

30. A computer readable medium storing a program for distributing digital contents via a network, said program when executed causes a computer to perform the steps of:

collecting sales information of digital contents sold to a customer;

calculating numbers of each of digital contents sold during a predetermined period based on said collected sales information of said predetermined period;

calculating a total number of sold digital contents for each contents holder having a license for said digital contents; and

sending for said contents holder a fee corresponding to a total number of sold digital contents calculated for each of contents holder.

31. A computer readable medium storing a program for distributing digital contents via a network, said program when executed causes a computer to perform the steps of:

when digital contents selected by a customer is not saved in a vending device, transmitting a distribution request for said selected digital contents from said vending device to a distribution management device;

upon transmitting said distribution request for said selected digital contents from said distribution management device to a content database device, distributing to said distribution management device digital contents transmitted from said content database device based on said distribution request;